A3275-2
5/2/83

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information and Public Affairs
1920 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 28, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 23 totaled an estimated 15.6 billion ton-miles, 6.0 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 16 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 240.9 billion ton-miles, 5.7 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 23 totaled 359,039 cars, 7.4 percent below 1982, but 0.8 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 11.9 percent in the East, 4.6 percent in the South and 6.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, loadings of lumber and wood products were up 743 cars, or 11.4 percent, nonmetallic minerals were up 721 cars, or 6.6 percent, and stone, clay and glass products increased by 411 cars, or 4.1 percent. Fourteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 16 totaled 42,573 cars, up 25.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1982 and 73,952 trailers and/or containers, 18.5 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 15 weeks of the year was 620,024 cars, 15.6 percent higher than last year, and 1,060,404 trailers and/or containers, up 12.2 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/23/83:

	Loadings in Week ended April 23, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	22,378	D	3,572	13.8	I	1,613	7.8
Other farm products	3,556	D	769	17.8	D	2	0.0
Metallic ores	15,688	D	4,725	23.1	D	101	0.6
Coal	97,783	D	19,850	16.9	I	65	0.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,000	D	47	0.5	I	552	5.8
Nonmetallic minerals	11,564	I	721	6.6	D	898	7.2
Grain mill products	11,348	D	733	6.1	D	759	6.3
Food and kindred products	12,586	D	903	6.7	I	432	3.6
Primary forest products	15,466	I	247	1.6	I	708	4.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,264	I	743	11.4	I	207	2.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,949	D	2,098	12.3	D	381	2.5
Chemicals and allied products	22,760	D	388	1.7	I	672	0.3
Petroleum products	4,820	I	10	0.2	I	177	3.8
Stone, clay and glass products	10,436	I	411	4.1	I	207	2.0
Coke	4,760	D	414	8.0	I	102	2.2
Metals and products	8,929	D	2,123	19.2	I	379	4.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,644	I	349	2.0	I	90	0.5
Waste and scrap materials	8,489	D	456	5.1	D	234	2.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,818	D	35	0.4	I	186	2.2
All other carloads	49,548	I	6,134	14.1	D	132	0.3
LCL traffic	253	D	1,326	84.0	I	17	7.2
Total Cars Loaded	359,039	D	28,824	7.4	I	2,900	0.8
Corresponding week of 1982	387,863						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (16 weeks)	5,535,896	6,073,571	D 8.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
15 weeks ended April 16	225.3	238.9	D 5.7
Week ended April 23	15.6	16.6	D 6.0
16 weeks cumulative	240.9	255.5	D 5.7

AARt-042883